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NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

February, 2009

Next Meeting: February 3, Hillcrest Park Lodge

7:00PM General Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174

I-5 exit 226 (Kincaid Street Exit). Go East up the hill. This is Broadway Street. Continue on Broadway to S 13th Street (which is about 5 to 6 blocks from the freeway). Turn right (south) onto South 13th and go about 6 blocks. The park is on the right. Turn into the park, the parking lot is in front of the lodge.

From the Prez

It's a new year and we're on our way! Our board members for 2009 are listed at the end of the newsletter and they are ready to serve you. Please let them know if you have ideas to help make our club grow and meet your needs.

I want to recognize our members for all their work executing the **Toys for Tots** Program last year. The work is a service project that shows the true spirit of our club and it's members. It is a huge undertaking and I want to thank **Glenn Koontz** for spearheading it and all who worked so hard making the toys for the children. **Gene Benson** will be in charge of the program this year so please give him the same exceptional support you gave to Glenn.

I wasn't able to attend the picnic this year as my wife dragged me away to Maine, but, I heard, it was a great party! I want to thank **Val & Laura Matthews** for hosting this event. It takes a lot of effort to get ready for this type of event and I know

Val and Laura worked hard on making all the members feel welcome. It was a great location and everyone had a good time.

Please Help Make Our Speaker Welcome - Be On Time

Because of ferry schedules, our speaker will be introduced to the membership at 7:05PM. We know you'll enjoy the program so we encourage you to arrive at the meeting a few minutes early so you can get a great seat. Thank you.

We're all looking forward to this coming year and want to assure you that if there are activities/programs/classes or demonstrations you would like to see, please contact me or any member of the Board.

-- Jeff O'Donnell

WoodFest, Shop Visitations, and Toys Highlight the New Year

Sixty members and guests welcomed the new year at our January 6th meeting in Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon. Looking eager and sounding enthusiastic, they listened to announcements by committee chairman on the activities and educational programs planned for the next few months.

President **Jeff O'Donnell** welcomed visitors and new members and then asked for reports from the committee chairmen.

Phil Choquette, Venue Chair, briefly reviewed the successful Arts Alive! Exhibition. He also alerted us to the next event on the first Saturday and Sunday in April. WoodFest at Sedro Wolley High School is an annual display of high school student workmanship by students attending numerous high schools in Western Washington. One of our aims is to support such educational opportunities for young people. Each year, we provide the judging team who determine and recognize the best quality projects made by these students. NCWA donates a beautiful, engraved, combination Lie-Nelson rabbet/block plane to the winner of the NCWA Judges' Choice competition.

Ed Pysher, Membership Committee Chair, was busily lining up volunteers for the many issues and projects that committee faces this year. First, they are setting up twelve distribution points where our new, colorful brochures can be picked up from the counters of woodworking retailers in both Skagit and Whatcom counties. The retailers are usually those that offer NCWA member's discounts (as shown on pages 8 and 9 in your Newsletter and on the back side of your membership card).

Membership cards will be available at the February meeting. The Membership Committee has a goal

to meet with each new member and orient him or her about the capabilities of club members and to determine the experience level of the new members. The orientation will also include new members' desires regarding specific courses of instruction about woodworking , and their need for personal mentoring. New members are also urged to take on an active committee role in NCWA and claim a place on one of the many teams producing toys for tots this year.

Gene Benson returns to his true love, heading the Toys for Tots Committee, and he expects another big year and outpouring of donations from NCWA. Gene also recognized the work of **Glenn Koontz** who took over this task for a two year stint and did an excellent job during his tour of duty. Gene reported that Washington Alder might have some white oak to add to their donated wood supply. When you build Toys for Tots, the wood is free. Make your request known to Gene.

Jim Bucknell, Program Chair, asked for suggestions from members on future programs, and he is looking for a couple of volunteers to add to his committee.

Chuck Robertson, Educational Chair, reminded members, that have enrolled for Saturday classes in January, to check the club's website for shop locations. These are posted a week before the class is to be given.

Our new Library Chair, **Gary Danilson**, and his crew had the entire club library spread out on tables where one could find all matters of woodwork expertise in text or video form. It was a graphic way to show the strength of our commitment to give members the best and latest in woodworking lore.

And, finally, **Nick Van**, the editor of the newsletter reminded the membership that articles about "anything woodworking" are welcome for inclusion in future newsletters.

Bring ‘n Brag

Bring ‘n Brag started with a puzzle presented by **Gary Weyers**. He showed us a couple of pencils that had been captured, or encased, in a wooden framework without an obvious sign of glue or saw lines, and asked us how this was done. He passed the two items through the audience at break and asked for solutions. Later, two of our members said they had the answer. Both **Rick Anderson** and **Val Matthews** solved the puzzle. Those present learned the solution, but we are not going to reveal it here.

Two other projects were shown. **Larry Killinger** presented his attractive jewelry box made of walnut and oak, and **Shelly Clouse** lunged at us with a home-made wooden sword drawn from a wooden scabbard. Shelly said that it was a fun project to complete. – Jay Geisel

Favorite Small Tools Line-Up a January “Hit”

On paper it didn’t seem such a big deal , but when our members identified their favorite hand tools, the enthusiastic reception mirrored that of our recent FastCap demonstration. Program Chairman **Jim Bucknell** steered us straight into “tool talk,” the emotional debate of what individuals like and don’t like and what they are willing to pay good money for.

Working wood in a down economy sets ground rules that limits our tool favorites to the best bargains available today. Jim led off with a display and description of several bench items that serve him well, including a tip he recently submitted to **Fine Woodworking** magazine. The tip was a simple identification system of corded tools plugged

into an electrical strip. To match the plug end with its tool, Jim wraps the same color tape to each end of the tool cord, allowing him to quickly unplug the correct tool.

Also high on Jim’s list was a hand-saving sanding block that accepted adhesive-backed paper (\$8), a small white board and markers for noting dimensions and a little design help, a fine mechanical pencil and dimensioning square with a thin perforated plate that provides points and lines on your workpiece, a Wixey magnetic and electronic table saw blade angle setter, and an Incra Gauge.

The gauge, ideally suited for your apron pocket, embodies the design principles that make other Incra products so accurate, a ribbed matching of the two sliding parts that lock them together squarely in increments as small as 1/32nd of an inch. It’s a fine tool for marking lines along the edges of a workpiece, to lay out hinges and offsets and to stand on end to measure bit or blade heights. I watched how Jim used the tool during a recent cabinet-making class. He calls it a “layout must.” I bought my Incra gauge on his recommendation and paid \$13 for it at Hartsville Tool (Page 15 in their catalog).

Rick Anderson showed a few of his favorite small tools that help him in his commercial work. He showed us a new Bessey clamp that’s easier on the hands and exerts plenty of pressure, a measuring tape with a magnetic belt holder, and a set of clamps (Rockler) that fastens an auxiliary fence to a table saw fence, thus making it unnecessary to drill or screw fasteners into an expensive fence system.

Cec Braeden likes the Veritas saddle square that allows woodworker to strike a line on two adjoining faces of a workpiece without moving the square. For a few dollars more he acquired a saddle square extension. He also found praise for the small Bosch impact drill at \$140.

Gary Danilson, taking a cue from the FastCap demo, likes their Glue Bot, an easy way to contain and spread glue using a plastic squeeze bottle that does not drip. It comes equipped with several nozzles to give a thin line of glue, or to expand the line width for large projects. The squeeze is easy on the hands. He also showed us his Li'l Wizard, a metal detector that is passed over the wood to find hidden nails. Price \$100.

Nick Van showed us his jig for cutting tapers on the table saw. It is a simple, effective jig that was fashioned from scrap from a plan shown in **Fine Woodworking** magazine.

Chuck Robertson's Christmas present is not an inexpensive tool, but he loves it. At \$350 it performs many jobs that would otherwise be difficult to tackle. The tool has many accessories for specialized cutting and scraping tasks. The MultiTool is from Fine.

Finally, **Jim Murphy** cut some square blocks and inserted short dowels with pointed tips as supports for work projects being finished. His dowels were pointed in a pencil sharpener. Jim said, "a set of four blocks can take a heavy load."

The program was well organized and received well by the membership. "We like to utilize our member's talent and knowledge," said Jim. "We'll do this again in the near future." — Jay Geisel

February's Program – A Must See!!

The February program will be a presentation by **Tim Lawson of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking (PTSW)**. Tim is a graduate of the Intensive Furniture Making course at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine.

"I build sculptural furniture using a mixture of techniques including: steam bent double tapered

laminations; coopered sections (double curved pieces made of solid wood); traditional joinery. All joints and most surfaces are shaped by planes, rasps or by spokeshave. The final blending is done with either card scrapers or by sanding. I use a wet rubbed oil/varnish finish to create a lustrous satin look that pops the grain and feels wonderful to the touch."

"I draw my inspiration from winged creatures. The flick of a raised wing, the curve of a swan's breast and the open wings of a resting butterfly may all be seen in my work. I blend these graceful and powerful curves into elegant, functional furniture. I use and celebrate the natural diversity of line and color in the grain of North American hardwoods."

"I am currently building a range of stands and music stands. I welcome commissions for custom furniture that seeks and demands the grace and elegance of curved forms."

PTSW offers weekend, and one or two week, courses on woodworking, cabinet making, furniture making, historic preservation and traditional woodcrafts.

The school is located in the heart of Fort Worden State Park, near Port Townsend, located at the entrance to Puget Sound about two hours away from downtown Seattle. The following are excerpts from their website:

"Classes for beginning woodworkers — beginner classes are designed for folks who don't know one end of a chisel from the other but want to learn. We'll guide you through each step of mastering the basic skills."

"Classes for intermediate and advanced woodworkers — advanced courses will build your confidence with hand tools, stationary tools, design, and finishing. We will introduce you to advanced techniques like steam bending and veneering."

“A wide variety of courses — from the pragmatic to the artful: “Quick-Joinery” techniques for cabinetry; weekend project courses; advanced design and construction; Jim Tolpin’s “Joy of Woodworking” courses; hand tool intensives; Shaker benches to sculptural fine furniture.”

“One to ten day classes – classes are short but intense. The intensity is leavened with humor and examples from our experiences. Accommodation is available at the Fort or elsewhere in Port Townsend.”

Check out the school’s website (www.ptwoodschool.com/home.html). Also, check out Mr. Lawson’s website (www.timlawson.net) and review his work. He’s good and it should be an interesting and fun evening!

Mr. Jim Tolpin, one of the founders of PTSW, will likely come to a future meeting to instruct us on the use of handtools.

Library Committee Report

We appreciate everyone’s efforts to return library materials on a timely basis. The beginning of the new year might be a good time to remind everyone that our policy is to limit check-out time to 2 months. This will just help give everyone access to club materials. Your Library Committee (**Gary Danilson, Jim Torrence and Steve Johnson**) is also considering what books or videos to add to the library this year. If you have a suggestion of something you would like to see added, let one of the committee members know. – Gary Danilson

Shop Tours to Resume

The club’s first Shop Tour of the year is going to be Saturday, Feb 28. We will be visiting 5 shops in the Bow Hill/Burlington area. Club members can visit the first 3 shops on their own (or make your own tour group) from 9:00AM to 12:00PM

and the other 2 shops will be open from 1:00PM to 3:00PM.

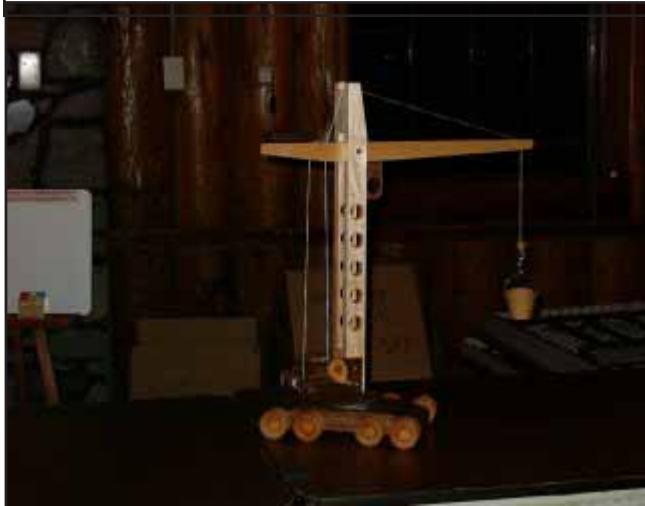
The shops open on this tour will range from a converted partial garage space to a small free-standing shop to a larger production shop. Among the many interesting things to see will be a newly built central dust collection system, an innovative dust pickup built for a lathe and a just completed 14' McKenzie river drift boat. More information and directions will be available at the February general meeting. We also plan to e-mail all members with info and directions a few days before the tour. If all else fails, you will be able to pick up this information at **Ed Pysher**’s shop (part of the tour) on that Saturday morning. Ed’s address is 5268 Island View Way, Bow, and his phone is 360-770-7203. Hope to see you all there. If you have any questions contact **John Bellinger** (360-757-8091) or **Gary Danilson** (360-424-9268). — Gary Danilson

That Time of Year Again - 2009 Dues

As you know, dues must be paid by the end of January. **Doug Duehning**, our Treasurer, is in Spokane dealing with a serious family emergency and has asked me to follow up. I’ll have the 2009 membership cards at the February meeting for those whose dues are paid.

Remember, we will be notifying the vendors who give us discounts that 2009 cards have been issued. Some of you may have sent your dues to Doug since the last meeting. If you have not, please send them to me. Please make your checks payable to NCWA, and mail them to me at 5268 Island View Way, Bow, WA 98232-7509. — Ed Pysher

More Pictures from Toys for Tots Meeting - Courtesy of Linda Pysher



Fiction and Fact - from Nick's Almanac

... Bees have five eyes. There are 3 small eyes on the top of a bee's head and 2 larger ones in front.
... Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. Her measurements if she were life size: 39-23-33.
... The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle.
... Ohio is listed as the 17th state in the U.S., but, technically it is number 47. You see, until August 7, 1953, congress forgot to vote on a resolution to admit Ohio to the Union. Congress hasn't changed very much, have they?
... Only 1/3 of the people that can twitch their ears can twitch only one ear at a time.
... An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain. There are some woodworkers with the same problem.
... The real name of the "I've fallen and I can't get up" lady is Edith Fore.
... Grapes explode when cooked in a microwave oven.
... A quarter has 119 grooves around its edge. The dime has 118.
... Maine is the toothpick capital of the world.
... The male gypsy moth can "smell" a female gypsy moth from 1.8 miles away. Awesome!
... And finally, 52 of our members are trying to twitch just one ear. Only 3 made it.

DELTA 8" JOINTER, Model 37-380. Virtually new.....has been aligned and a couple of test boards run over it. \$1000. Email van_ness@earthlink.net

English Walnut Available

A friend recently had a live mature English Walnut tree uprooted because of the wind. The tree has not been cut yet. Please contact Roger Hill at 360-652-0714 if you have any interest in obtaining some walnut. Roger is in the Warm Beach area, just south of Stanwood. — George Brooks

THE WOOD SHED.....

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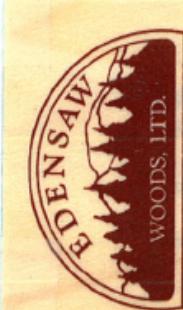


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COMING EVENTS

February 3	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
February 18	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
February 21	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
March 3	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location is announced in the newsletter. Dues are \$30 per year, payable to NCWA, 150 Swinomish Dr., Laconner, WA 98257. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 3rd Saturday of the month. Submit to NCWA Newsletter, 24 Jacks Pass Court, Camano Island, WA 98282 or Email to nvan@verizon.net or call 360-387-4174.

2008 Officers and Chairpersons

President:	Jeff O'Donnell	(360) 678-2205	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
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Board at Large	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Toys for Tots	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
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